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Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela attaches great importance to integrating a family perspective into policy formulation at all levels. The National Constitution establishes legal norms protecting the family as the basic unit of society as well as the fundamental environment for individual development. It also recognizes a plurality of family forms such as the indigenous family, single-parent families and other familial arrangements and guarantees their rights. The rights of different family members are also protected under several national laws.

2. In addition, the Government implements social policies in support of low-income families using specific interventions (*misiones*) in such areas as food security, housing and health care. Various programmes also exist to protect mothers during pregnancy and after childbirth. One example is the programme called Misión Madres del Barrio aimed at recognizing the value of domestic work and the contribution of women to social well-being and caregiving. In 2007, the Government began providing economic support to homemakers from low-income families equivalent to the national minimum wage.

3. The Government attaches specific priority to protecting and promoting the rights of women within families. One specific initiative in this area includes the recent Law on the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence (Ley Orgánica sobre el Derecho de las Mujeres a una Vida Libre de Violencia). Other specific measures were taken to strengthen the capacity of law-enforcement bodies to fight intrafamily violence. In addition, shelters have been created for victims of domestic violence.

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